DPI Rolls Out New Accreditation Process

The Department of Public Instruction will be using AdvancED for accreditation. To better understand what the roll-out of AdvancED (and its tool ASSIST) means for schools and how the information completed for AdvancED accreditation can help fulfill other department requirements, DPI has scheduled regional training dates: Minot, March 31; Mandan, April 1; Grand Forks, April 7; and Fargo, April 8.

Some details and logistics regarding how NDMILE and ASSIST will function together are being worked out. NDMILE is an online tool that some schools use to drive school improvement efforts and document school improvement requirements. AdvancED also has a set of online tools referred to as ASSIST that schools can use to develop a school improvement plan as well as complete documents for accreditation.

From the accreditation aspect, all North Dakota schools will need to use parts of AdvancED’s online ASSIST tool for accreditation review. Part of DPI’s continuing communications with AdvancED involves specifically what will need to be completed in ASSIST in order to be accredited. Regarding the school improvement process, schools have the option of using either the AdvancED tool or NDMILE.

The department’s intention is to streamline efforts and reduce duplicative work for schools as much as possible. As they gain more information, schools will be updated on the process.

ND Students Selected for U.S. Senate Youth Program

Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp announced names of two North Dakota students who have been selected as delegates to the 52nd annual United States Senate Youth Program that will be held March 8-15, 2014, in Washington, D.C. Bethany Bernston of Valley City and Tyler Toepke-Floyd of Wishek were chosen from across the state to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program’s 52nd annual Washington Week.

Election Deadlines

North Dakota election laws are specific regarding dates and deadlines. Relevant election law is found in NDCC 15.1-09. Election deadline information and a sample calendar were included in the January Bulletin and are posted on NDSBA’s website at www.ndsba.org under “Quick Clicks.”

Superintendent Evaluations

North Dakota law requires that a school board complete the superintendent’s summative evaluation process before March 15.
Federal Legislative Issues

The National School Boards Association held its annual Advocacy Institute on February 1-4 in Washington, D.C. School board members from North Dakota who attended were Greg Allen (Jamestown), Ben Auch (Mott-Regent), and Lisa Longnecker (New Rockford-Sheyenne). Greg, who represents the Western Region on NSBA’s Policy and Resolutions Committee, shared three resolutions passed by the committee that are of particular interest to North Dakota school board members:

Resolution #1: Opposition to Unlawful Expansion of Executive Authority

“NSBA supports an appropriate federal role in education, but opposes the federal expansion of executive authority by the U. S. Department of Education and other federal agencies in the absence of authorizing legislation as an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority.”

Resolution #2: Opposition to Privatization: Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, and Non-Locally Authorized Charters

“NSBA supports local community public schools and unconditionally opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits and similar schemes, including charter schools not approved by local school boards, effectively creating a second system of publicly funded education which: a) diverts public funding to private schools, including virtual schools; b) are unaccountable to the public through student and financial performance evaluation and reporting required of traditional public schools; and c) often have the effect of re-segregating schools.”

Resolution #3: Common Core

“NSBA supports high academic standards, including Common Core standards voluntarily adopted by states with local school board input and free from federal direction, federal mandates, funding conditions, or coercion. NSBA urges states to provide financial and technical support to enable school districts to implement, in an effective and timely manner, voluntarily adopted rigorous standards, including Common Core.”

These resolutions and others will be voted on by the Delegate Assembly during NSBA’s Annual Conference in New Orleans in April.

On the last day of the Institute, we went to Capitol Hill and spoke with North Dakota’s Congressional delegation. Our three members of Congress are strong supporters of public education. However, as everyone is aware, things are moving very slowly in Congress these days and it will be difficult to get any version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through the Democratically controlled Senate. Readers will recall that the Republican dominated House passed its version of ESEA, i.e., The Student Success Act on July 19, 2013.

NSBA Hosts Annual Negotiations Seminar

The North Dakota School Boards Association hosted its annual Negotiations Seminar on February 7. In response to suggestions from our membership, the seminar featured a new, one-day format.

Mike Bitz, Mandan Superintendent, talks about negotiations.

Jennifer Johnson, Larimore School Board President, explains how to rebuild relationships after impasse.

Jason Kersten, Bottineau Superintendent, tells the story of their impasse.

Curt Meidinger, Wishek School Board President, discusses impasse in Wishek.
NSBA Board of Directors has unanimously approved a resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Brown v. Board of Education, saying it “has had a profound significant and beneficial impact on all aspects of life in the United States.”

While the historic decision repudiated the doctrine of “separate but equal”—ruling that separate educational systems, by their very nature, could not be equal—the board noted that “many areas of our nation are still struggling with the vestiges of segregation in America.”

The resolution was proposed by Frank Pugh, Director of NSBA’s Pacific Region, and enthusiastically endorsed by Board President David Pickler. Pugh called the ruling the most important educational decision of the past 100 years and worthy of continued reflection as public schools strive to make a world-class education available to all children, regardless of such differences as race, income, and ethnicity.

“It’s good for school boards to recognize how history has created the type of schools that we have today that are open to everyone and are equitable to all,” Pugh said. At the same time, he added, “there is a lot of work to be done” to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed.

The resolution now goes to NSBA’s Delegate Assembly which meets on April 4 at the association’s 74th Annual Conference in New Orleans. The Board of Directors has asked state school boards associations and school districts to issue their own commemorations of the historic civil rights decision made on May 17, 1954, and its resolution “encourages direct student participation through essays, creative arts, lectures, research and writing, community projects, and other activities to foster personal commitment to democracy.”

Celebrities Showcase Public Education in NSBA’s National Campaign

In partnership with its state associations, the National School Boards Association has launched www.standup4publicschools.org, a new national campaign to highlight the success of public education. The campaign features advertisements with celebrity advocates and public school graduates to tell their stories of public education.

“Great public schools reflect the will of local communities and the strong governance of local school boards dedicated to advancing student achievement,” said NSBA Executive Director Thomas Gentzel. “This is an excellent vehicle for NSBA and our state associations to connect to share the great things happening in America’s public schools.”

Sal Khan, founder of the not-for-profit Khan Academy, is the campaign’s first celebrity advocate. Two other household names have joined the campaign: basketball legend and business mogul Earvin “Magic” Johnson and talk show host and celebrity spokesperson Montel Williams. State school boards associations will be highlighting local celebrities in their campaigns as well, and more celebrities will be joining the national campaign over the next year.

“NSBA’s campaign operates to counter the aggressive, well-funded attacks on public education with national and local outreach that supports local school board governance and honors the National School Boards Association’s commitment to democracy.”

Continued on page 4
the achievements of America’s public schools,” Gentzel said.

The campaign operates on a simple premise: “Who I am today began with public education,” paired with the rejoinder, “Today’s public schools are better than ever.”

In one of the advertisements featuring Khan, he notes that “People talk about college and career readiness, but both are just a means to an end. What we really need to talk about is life readiness.”

The campaign website, www.standup4publicschools.org, includes more details on the campaign and how individuals can get involved and take action to support public schools.

**Teacher Contract and Nonrenewal Deadlines Pocket Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering contracts to current teachers</th>
<th>No earlier than March 1 and no later than May 1. Give teachers at least 30 calendar days to return. NDCC 15.1-15-04(2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering contracts to newly hired teachers</td>
<td>No deadline in law. Give new hires a reasonable timeframe to consider offer and return contract (e.g., 10 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract issuance during negotiations</td>
<td>Issuance suspended until negotiations are complete NDCC 15.1-15-04(4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of contemplated teacher nonrenewal</td>
<td>No earlier than March 1 and no later than April 15 NDCC 15.1-15-05(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonrenewal hearing deadline</td>
<td>Nolater than April 21 NDCC 15.1-15-05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notice of nonrenewal</td>
<td>Nolater than May 1 NDCC 15.1-15-06(10)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Teacher includes all ESPB licensed administrators other than the superintendent

Tioga School District
Search extended
Contact: Jon Martinson
(701)-255-4127
e-mail: jon.martinson@ndsba.org
Position begins July 1, 2014
Application: www.ndsba.org
Salary range: $90,000 to $140,000
Deadline: March 21, 2014

![2014 NSBA Annual Conference](image)
April 5-7, 2014
New Orleans, LA
2014 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 23-25, 2014
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck
2015 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 29-31, 2015
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck